

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and new claim 53-74 are pending in this application. Claims 23-52 have been canceled as they are directed to the non-elected group of claims. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue those claims in a divisional application.

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite that: (1) the heel is formed *substantially entirely* of a first dense metallic material, (2) the toe is formed *substantially entirely* of a second dense metallic material, and (3) the center segment is formed from a *synthetic* non-metallic material.

New claims 53-74 have also been added to further define the invention. New independent claim 53 recites that the golf club head has a uniform depthwise construction, with three segments of the golf club head (heel, toe and center segment) extending depthwise from the strike face to the back surface. It also recites that the interface surfaces between these elements extend the full depth of the golf club head. Independent claim 63 includes all of the features of amended claim 1 and further recites that the strike face extends across one side of the heel such that the side of the heel extends from the bottom edge to the top edge of the strike face and that the strike face extends across one side of the toe such that the side of the toe extends from the bottom edge to the top edge of the strike face.

The Examiner rejected original claim 1 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,580,058 to Coughlin. The Coughlin reference has been carefully reviewed and it is believed that the invention recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13 and new independent claims 53 and 63 is patentable over the teachings of the Coughlin reference.

The Coughlin reference discloses a putter head having an opaque central portion and clear heel and toe. The putter head includes "weights inserted into cavities behind the heel and toe of the putter head but not extending into the heel and toe." (See column 1, lines 45-47.) The putter head "may be formed from a light transmitting material such as clear polycarbonate plastic or any suitable plastic material," and has "an opacified top surface 11." (See column 2, lines 15-17 and 43-45.)

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that the heel, toe, and center sections of the putter disclosed in Coughlin are "individually distinct due to shape and location" and that the heel and toe are formed from a metallic material in the form of a heel weight. The Applicant has reviewed the Coughlin patent and respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Specifically, unlike the present invention, Coughlin states that the metallic weights are inserted into cavities behind the heel and toe of the putter and that the metallic weights do not extend into the heel and toe. In addition, it can be seen from the specification and drawings of the Coughlin reference that the strike face of the putter head is formed from the same clear polycarbonate plastic as the heel and toe. Therefore, the Coughlin reference does not teach or suggest the heel, toe and center sections of the present invention and as the heel, toe and center section of the Coughlin putter head are formed from the same material.

Nevertheless, in order to further clarify the invention, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 13 to state that the heel is formed *substantially entirely* of a first dense metallic material and the toe is formed *substantially entirely* of a second dense metallic material. Accordingly, it is believed that the invention recited in claims 1, 13 and 63 is distinguishable from the putter head disclosed in the Coughlin patent even under the Examiner's characterization

of the teachings of Coughlin as the Coughlin reference does not show or suggest a golf club head having a heel formed substantially entirely from a first dense metallic material and a toe formed substantially entirely from a second dense metallic material.

Original claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,941,390 to Hussey. The Hussey reference has been carefully reviewed and it is respectfully submitted that the invention recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13 and new independent claims 53 and 63 are patentable over the teachings of the Hussey reference. Accordingly the rejection is traversed.

The Hussey reference has no similarity to the present invention. Instead, it discloses golf club heads that having weighting material positioned at the sides of the club head. In Item 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner makes specific reference to the embodiment of the Hussey golf club head shown in Figure 3 wherein weighting material is fixed to the sides of a center section formed of wood. It is submitted that the golf club head recited in amended claims 1 and 13 and new claims 53 and 63 is distinguishable from the golf club head shown in Figure 3 of the Hussey patent as the golf club head of claims 1, 13 and 53 includes a center segment formed of a *synthetic* non-metallic material. In addition, Hussey reference does not disclose golf club heads including a strike face that extends across one side of discrete heel, toe, and center segments as in the club head recited in claims 1, 13 and 63.

Moreover, new independent claim 53 recites a golf club head having a substantially uniform depthwise construction. There is no teaching or suggestion in Hussey of such a club head. Instead, the Hussey patent discloses club heads having weighting inserts placed at various depthwise positions, without extending the entire depth. Moreover, there is no teaching or

suggestion in Hussey of a heel or toe extending from the striking face to the back surface. Instead, weights are used in various shapes that do not extend from the striking face to the back surface and are not understood to constitute a heel or a toe section. Likewise, the Hussey reference fails to teach or suggest the center segment having the recited interface surfaces extending from the striking face to the back surface.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Hussey patent does not teach or suggest the golf club head recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and new independent claims 53 and 63 and therefore the rejection has been traversed.

Claims 3-8, 13-18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Coughlin. It is respectfully submitted that the Coughlin reference does not teach or suggest the present invention at least for all the reasons stated above. Accordingly, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9-11 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Coughlin in view of LaCoste. It is respectfully submitted that the Coughlin reference does not teach or suggest the present invention at least for all the reasons stated above and La Coste does not make up for all the deficiencies in Coughlin. Accordingly, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The other references that have been cited but not relied upon by the Examiner have been reviewed by the undersigned and are not understood to present any additional issues regarding allowability of the pending claims.

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Formal figures are submitted herewith. The specification has been amended to conform to the figure numbering used in the formal figures.

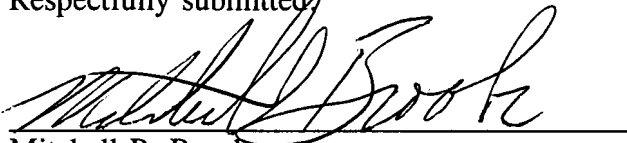
A change of correspondence address was filed on June 4, 1998. Kindly forward future correspondence to the undersigned at the address noted below.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1-22 and 53-74 are allowable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any questions about this amendment or the application, or to resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell P. Brook", is written over a horizontal line.

Mitchell P. Brook

Reg. No. 32,967

c/o BAKER & McKENZIE
101 West Broadway, 12th Floor
San Diego, California 92101
Tel.: (619) 236-1441